

South Dakota State University

Open PRAIRIE: Open Public Research Access Institutional Repository and Information Exchange

SDSU Extension Fact Sheets

SDSU Extension

1964

Fabrics Worth Noting: Knits

Cooperative Extension South Dakota State University

Follow this and additional works at: https://openprairie.sdstate.edu/extension_fact

Recommended Citation

South Dakota State University, Cooperative Extension, "Fabrics Worth Noting: Knits" (1964). *SDSU Extension Fact Sheets*. 860.

https://openprairie.sdstate.edu/extension_fact/860

This Fact Sheet is brought to you for free and open access by the SDSU Extension at Open PRAIRIE: Open Public Research Access Institutional Repository and Information Exchange. It has been accepted for inclusion in SDSU Extension Fact Sheets by an authorized administrator of Open PRAIRIE: Open Public Research Access Institutional Repository and Information Exchange. For more information, please contact michael.biondo@sdstate.edu.

fabrics worth noting

Knits

Reprinted with permission from Pub.
HXT 47, Fabrics Worth Noting Knits,
by Thelma Thompson, Extension
clothing specialist, University of
California.

Published and distributed in furtherance of the Acts of Congress
of May 8 and June 30, 1914, by the Cooperative Extension Serv-
ice of South Dakota State University, Brookings, John T. Stone,
Director, U. S. Department of Agriculture cooperating.

2M-9-64-File: 9.5.2-1650

Knits

Knits—plain and fancy, single and double—are multiplying in the apparel market. Double knits, especially popular, are used mostly in dresses, suits, and three-piece costumes. Most outerwear knits are made from wool, but several are appearing in cotton, nylon, and acrylics. Cotton knits, which until recently were used almost exclusively in underwear, now appear in colorful and textured patterns in casual wear. Knits also are being featured by the yard. (See Construction Techniques.)

Due to their elastic quality, knits are very comfortable; and because they do not wrinkle easily, they are ideal for travel.

HOW ARE KNITS MADE?

Knitted fabrics are made by interlocking series of loops of one or more yarns. They are made in two basic types, warp and filling. Filling knits (in which loops run crosswise) are more elastic than warp knits (in which loops run lengthwise). Filling knits prevail in the market.

Knitted fabrics may be either flat or tubular. T-shirts and seamless hosiery are examples of filling knits in tubular form.

A double knit is basically a jersey construction made with a double set of needles which knit and interlock the two sides of the fabric. As a result, a double knit is heavier and holds its original shape better than jersey. The cut edges do not curl.

NEW PROCESS TO CONTROL SHRINKAGE IN KNITS

A new process for shrinkage control, called Pak-nit, marks an important development in the knitwear field. Most leading producers of men's and boys' knit underwear have adopted the process to eliminate the shrinkage prob-

lem that has plagued manufacturers and wearers for years. A special machine compacts the fabric and shrinks it before it is made into a garment. Pak-nit guarantees less than 1 per cent length shrinkage in knitwear, compared to previous figures of as high as 20 per cent shrinkage by line-dry methods, and even more when machine dried. Pak-nit is designed for knit goods, as Sanforized is for wovens. It costs about one cent a garment.

Underwear manufacturers licensed to use Pak-nit include Carters, Munsingwear, Reis, Hanes, Coopers, and Standard Knitting Mills. Retailers with trademark licenses include Penney's, Allied Stores, Associated Dry Goods Corporation, May Department Stores, and Grant's.

CONSUMERS' CLUES ON BUYING AND CARE

- Try on knitted outerwear clothing items. Knits should not appear strained.
- Examine the loops; if they are long and narrow, the fabric has been strained in manufacturing and will probably shrink in washing or dry cleaning. Look for round loops in knits.
- Check label for information on shrinkage control. In addition to Pak-nit, "Redmanized," a mechanical preshrinking process for knit goods, will be found in cotton knits.
- Give knitted dresses, suits, etc., a "rest" of a day or more between wearings to come back to their original shape.
- Fold loosely knitted items as few times as possible and store flat in a drawer. If hung on hangers, they may stretch. Firm double knits may be hung on shaped hangers.

- Check label for method of cleaning. To prevent felting shrinkage of a washable wool sweater, use:
 - little agitation
 - lukewarm water which has been conditioned if needed
 - mild soap or detergent (Ivory Snow, Lux Flakes, or Vel are examples.)
 - dry on flat surface away from sunlight or direct heat.

Construction Techniques

Many knitted fabrics, including jersey, double knits, looped mohair, and lace knits, are being sold by the yard. These fabrics vary greatly in dimensional stability and ease of handling, and no rules can be given that will apply to all types. However, these general suggestions should be helpful.

PATTERN SELECTION

- Select a design with simple, easy lines, and few seams.
- Avoid flared or gored skirts with bias seams.
- Check back of pattern envelope to see if jersey or knit is recommended.

FABRIC SELECTION

- If fabric has stripe or plaid, check to see that it has been finished on straight of goods.
- Check label for information on shrinkage control.
- Avoid very loosely knitted fabrics.
- Select soft, pliable lining fabric if garment is to be lined. It is unnecessary to line most double knit skirts. (Instead you may prefer to wear a well-fitted taffeta slip.)

PRESHRINKING

Preshrink knitted fabric unless the label indicates that this has been done. (Linings, interfacings, and seam tape should also be preshrunk.) If garment is to be dry cleaned, you may wish to have preshrinking done by the dry cleaner. Whether fabric is to be preshrunk by dry cleaner or at home, first mark straight of goods:

On Tubular Knit: --Open fabric by cutting carefully along one rib of the knit. Do not cut on fold line. Mark straight of goods by basting with contrasting thread along one rib near center of fabric.

On Flat Knit: - Mark straight of goods by basting with contrasting thread along one rib near center of fabric.

To preshrink at home, place a sheet in warm water and wring out as much water as possible. On a protected surface, spread wet sheet, then fabric. Fold loosely. When fabric is moistened (about 2 hours), unfold and allow to dry completely on a flat surface. Press lightly, if necessary, with steam iron and press cloth. Be careful not to distort straight of goods.

PLACING PATTERN AND CUTTING

If fabric is preshrunk when purchased, mark straight of goods as described above. Press with steam iron to remove fold line of tubular fabric. Use basting line as guide in placing pattern. If garment is to be lined, cut lining pieces the same as garment.

MACHINE ADJUSTMENTS

Needle	For lightweight knits, use size No. 11; for heavy knits, use size No. 14.
Thread	"Taslan" nylon or mercerized cotton. Silk may be used for wool knit or jersey.

Length stitch 16 or more stitches per inch, depending on weight of fabric.

Tension Medium to slightly loose.

Pressure It may be necessary to reduce pressure slightly if fabric is heavy.

STITCHING

- Test by stitching a double thickness of fabric on the bias. Pull to see if stitching breaks. If it does, loosen tension.
- To prevent stretching, stitch all edges (except bottom of skirt) about 1/4 inch from edge immediately after cutting. This stitching also can serve as a seam finish.
- If garment is to be lined, stitch fabric and lining together 1/4 inch from edges. Or, working on a flat surface, pin and hand-baste lining and fabric together. In either case, do not include lining in hem. Finish lining separately, just above top of hem.
- Most knits "give" more in width than in length. Stay the shoulder and waistline seams with seam tape..

SEAMS

- Stretch fabric slightly as you stitch seams. This will help prevent breaking of seams in wear.
- Probably no further seam finish will be needed, although it may be advisable to

bind the seam edges of a very lacy knit. A zigzag finish may tend to stretch and ruffle the fabric edge unless it is a firm double knit.

LININGS; FACINGS

- Use interfacings under buttonholes, waistbands, facings, and belts to prevent stretching.
- Many double knits don't require lining, but skirts in less firm knits should be lined. Keep lining free at hemline.
- It may be desirable to line entire garment with soft, lightweight fabric, such as Soft Super Siri, batiste, or China silk. However, if a knit tends to sag, lining will not keep it in shape.
- On bulky knits, face necklines and sleeves with taffeta or cotton. To keep these facings in place, tack through shoulder and underarm seams.

FINISHING

- Let garment hang at least 24 hours before marking hemline.
- Raw edge of hem may be machine stitched about 1/4 inch from edge, or hand overcast, and then caught loosely to garment by hand stitching. Leave sufficient slack in thread so that hem will "give" with garment and will be inconspicuous from right side.

To simplify information, trade names of products have been used. No endorsement of named products is intended, nor is any criticism implied of similar products which are not mentioned.